

I think the FCC should mandate standards in this area. The reason is the conflict between the DMCA and the right to fair use established in the Betamax case.

If left to the market, standards may be introduced which interfere with the ability of the public to exercise their fair-use right to record for later viewing, or require them to break the DMCA to do so. FCC rule-making to prohibit the use of restrictions such as a 'do not record' flag on digital/HDTV transmissions would prevent this. And an FCC-mandated standard would allow makers of digital/HDTV VCRs, PVRs, and PC add-on cards to have a single universal standard to work to and encourage the growth of this industry, as is your mandate.